

XXXV.—On a new *Sylviad* from Palestine.

By H. B. TRISTRAM, LL.D., F.R.S., &c.

THE recent expedition for the exploration of Moab was too limited in time to afford much opportunity for ornithological investigation; nor could it be expected that any novelties would occur on a highland plateau only separated by a fissure of 20 or 30 miles from the hill-country of Judæa.

A few birds not noticed in previous expeditions were obtained, as *Budytes flavus* (L.), *Querquedula circia* (L.), and a hybrid between *Anas boschas* and *Dafila acuta*.

All the new or peculiar species obtained in the Dead-Sea basin during my last expedition were obtained or noted again, with the exception of *Caprimulgus tamaricis*, mihi.

When searching among the trees and shrubs at Engedi, where birds are generally plentiful, I noticed consorting with the Black-headed Warbler (*Sylvia melanocephala*) a pair of another species; and after a long pursuit I succeeded in obtaining both male and female. My attention was at first directed to them by the note, which differs most markedly from that of *S. melanocephala*.

The bird, in the hand, may at once be distinguished by the irides, which are bright yellow instead of red, the throat and breast, which are black instead of white, and the abdomen, which is cinereous, as dark as the back, without any white. The primaries are deep black instead of rusty brown; and the secondary wing-coverts are black, with a narrow white margin on the outer webs.

The female has the throat black, mottled with white, and the irides yellow as in the male. In the rest of its coloration it resembles the female of *S. melanocephala*.

I propose for this well-marked species the name

SYLVIA MELANOTHORAX, n. sp.

S. melanocephalæ partibus superioribus simillima, at paullo inferior staturâ. Suprà cinerea, pileo nigerrimo: subtùs thorace et pectore nigris: abdomine cinereo: remigibus nigris, secundariis in parte externâ albo limbatis, iridibus lætissime flavis: long. tot. 4·8, alar. 2·4, caud. 2·3, tarsi ·57, rostr. a rictu ·55 poll.

Fem. mari pectore et gutture similis, aliter ♀ *S. melanocephalæ* similis est iridibus flavissimis.

Hab. in valle Jordani in hyeme.

XXXVI.—*Supplementary Notes to 'The Birds of India.'* By T. C. JERDON, F.L.S., F.Z.S., Retired Deputy Inspector-General of Hospitals, Madras*.

[Continued from p. 139.]

373. PARADOXORNIS FLAVIROSTRIS.

I have recently found this curious bird rather common in Assam and Sylhet, frequenting reeds and long grass in preference to tree-jungle. It is generally in pairs, and has a very pleasing whistling call. It feeds chiefly on insects; and I have had it alive, caught by a very ingenious snare baited with a winged white ant, which the goldsmiths of Assam use to catch birds for their own food. One measured in the flesh $8\frac{1}{2}$ inches long, extent 10, wing $3\frac{1}{2}$, tail 4, tarsus $1\frac{1}{4}$, foot nearly $1\frac{7}{8}$. Bill gamboge-yellow; feet plumbeous green.

374. PARADOXORNIS GULARIS.

This species was obtained by Major Godwin-Austen in North Cachar. Legs slaty green.

376. HETEROMORPHA UNICOLOR.

Beavan states that he saw a small party of this bird hopping about low shrubs and dwarf bamboos near the ground on Mount Tongloo. I recently observed it myself in the same locality, whence, indeed, I formerly had it through shikarees.

377. CHLEUASICUS RUFICEPS.

This is *Paradoxornis sphenura* of Hodgson, MS.

378. SUTHORA NIPALENSIS, Gould, B. Asia, pt. iv. pl. 9 (the upper figure).

The flanks are bright rusty, and the thigh-coverts fulvous; bill dusky livid, pale at the base of the lower mandible. Extent of wing 6 inches, wing 2.

* [Dr. Jerdon gave us the MS. of this portion of his notes when prostrated with the attack of illness which ultimately proved fatal. In some respects it was incomplete; but the omissions have been supplied by Lord Walden, to whom we submitted the MS. and the proof.—Ed.]